

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                   1.     A method for generating a configuration database file  
2 based on at least one data file of at least one ECAD tool included in a  
3 predefined tool list, said method comprising the steps of:  
4                   selecting an ECAD tool from the predefined tool list;  
5                   reading a data file of said selected ECAD tool; and,  
6                   generating a configuration database file based on said read data  
7 file.
- 1                   2.     The method according to claim 1 further comprising the  
2 steps of:  
3                   determining whether all ECAD tools from the tool list have been  
4 selected;  
5                   selecting a next ECAD tool when all ECAD tools have not been  
6 selected from the tool list; and,  
7                   storing said configuration database file when all ECAD tools  
8 have been selected from the tool list.
- 1                   3.     The method according to claim 1 wherein prior to said  
2 step of selecting an ECAD tool further comprises the step of defining a tool list  
3 having predefined ECAD tools.
- 1                   4.     The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of  
2 selecting an ECAD tool further comprises the steps of:  
3                   defining a file list including at least one predefined data file of  
4 said selected ECAD tool; and,  
5                   selecting a data file from said file list.

1                   5.     The method according to claim 4 wherein said at least one  
2 predefined data file includes an output file generated by said selected ECAD  
3 tool.

1                   6.     The method according to claim 4 wherein said at least one  
2 predefined data file includes a configuration file associated with said selected  
3 ECAD tool.

1                   7.     The method according to claim 4 wherein said step of  
2 selecting a data file further comprises the steps of:  
3                   determining whether all data files from the file list have been  
4 selected; and,  
5                   selecting a next data file from the file list until all said at least one  
6 predefined data file have been selected.

1                   8.     The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of  
2 reading a file further comprises the steps of:  
3                   determining whether all data files of said selected ECAD tool  
4 have been read; and,  
5                   reading a next data file of said selected ECAD tool until all data  
6 files of said selected ECAD tool have been read.

1                   9.     The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of  
2 generating a configuration database file further comprises the steps of:  
3                   determining whether a configuration database file exists in  
4 memory;  
5                   creating a new configuration database file based on the read data  
6 file when a configuration database file does not exist in memory;  
7                   determining whether a configuration database file is older than  
8 the read data file when a configuration database file does exist in memory; and,

9                   appending data from the read data file to the existing  
10 configuration database file.

1                   10. A computer system for generating a configuration  
2 database file based on at least one data file of at least one ECAD tool included  
3 in a predefined tool list, comprising:

4                   a storage medium;

5                   a processor for executing a program stored on the storage  
6 medium for generating a configuration database file based on at least one data  
7 file of at least one ECAD tool included in a predefined tool list, the program  
8 comprising a set of instructions for:

9                   selecting an ECAD tool from the predefined tool list;

10                  reading a data file of said selected ECAD tool; and,

11                  generating a configuration database file based on said read data  
12 file.

1                   11. A computer program product comprising a computer  
2 usable medium having computer readable program codes embodied in the  
3 medium that when executed causes a computer to:

4                   select an ECAD tool from a predefined tool list including at least  
5 one ECAD tool;

6                   reading a data file of said selected ECAD tool; and,

7                   generating a configuration database file based on said read data  
8 file.